

THE MCGILL DAILY

Volume 81, Number 68

Cranking the furry dolphin since 1911.

Friday, February 10, 1992

Media hype driving Blacks out of Burgundy

by Audrea Golding

Black residents of Montreal's Little Burgundy neighbourhood are outraged over recent media coverage of their community.

The community is particularly incensed by a CBC Newswatch story two weeks ago which depicted the area as impoverished and drug-ridden.

The media consistently distorts the image of Little Burgundy and portrays the Black community with "white coloured glasses", said Oren Bristol, a spokesperson for the Black youth group AKA-X who was interviewed in the CBC broadcast.

"The media has hyped up the drug problem in the area to such an extent that strong-arm tactics (used by police) against Black community members appear acceptable," said Bristol.

In the broadcast, CBC reporter Paul Carvallo followed MUC police constable Pablo Palascios as he forcefully entered apartments in Little Burgundy without search warrants.

Bristol said the drug trade in the southwest neighbourhood has become less significant in recent years. But there is no reason for Palascios and other officers at Station 24 to continue harassing Black residents, he said.

He also accused the police and city employees of collaborating together against the community.

In the broadcast, Palascios entered public housing units with keys supplied by the city's housing authority.

The housing authority has since then ceased to supply keys to police, but Palascios has not been reprimanded.

Tony Jones, of the Québec Ethnic Minority Caucus, said the drug problem in Little Burgundy was deliberately exaggerated by the CBC report.

"The drug problem is not as rampant now as it was in 1989 or 1990," said Jones.

"At that time, the police did nothing to stop it and they allowed the problem to grow."

Jones conceded that constable Palascios has helped to diminish drug dealings in the neighbourhood, but at serious costs. He said Palascios used Black youths against each other to gain information about drug dealers in the neighbourhood.

The continued harassment has forced many Black residents to move to areas such as the West Island and LaSalle, he said.

Eviction encouraged by terror tactics

Some residents in Little Burgundy say the media is playing its part in an age-old process known as gentrification, as lower income residents are terrorized into leaving the neighbourhood making way for wealthy condo owners.

John, a Black resident of Little Burgundy who spoke to the *Daily* on condition of anonymity, said the city, police and the media are cooperating to portray Little Burgundy as a drug-infested neighbourhood and using terror tactics in order to encourage Black residents to move out.

He said Little Burgundy has lost its tax base, and the city is attempting to reclaim it by converting the existing housing units into condominiums. "The city is slowing down



Oren Bristol, member of AKA-X.

the process of filling vacant city housing units, so that eventually they will be converted into up-scale condominiums."

He said Little Burgundy is no longer a large, vibrant Black community and there are not as many city housing units left with Black families. Once the traditional cen-

tre of Montréal's Black community, Little Burgundy is now only eight per cent Black.

John said white middle-class homeowners are moving into the neighbourhood because they know their property values will eventually increase.

"The (white population) isn't

moving out over the drug problem," said John.

"They are staying because they know the housing prices will be going up."

John said the area has recently witnessed the widening of the socioeconomic gap between rich and poor, drawn along St. Jacques street.

He said the community is plagued with a drug problem because of poor recreational facilities. He suggested that the city clean up the Negro Community Centre, a building which has slowly deteriorated over the years.

Police must take the initiative to earn the respect of the neighbourhood's residents, by joining in recreational activities such as basketball, John said.

The Black community appears to be at a loss for solutions to the police harassment problem. Although some residents have filed complaints through the police ethics commission, many feel it is not worth the risk.

"You can't complain to the police when they're the ones harassing you," said John.

Many members of Montréal's Black community also think police do not take complaints seriously. The police force refuses to punish its officers for racist behavior directed toward the Black community, exemplified in the Marcellus François shooting last summer.

Officers who called François a "nigger" and "tam-tam" over police radio were not disciplined.

Bristol, of AKA-X, said his group will encourage Burgundy residents to take advantage of Black media and empowerment groups to unite and fight back.

Athletics facility runs into opposition

by Elizabeth Caley

The Students' Society's plans to expand McGill's athletics facilities into Mont Royal greenspace has drawn fire from a number of community and environmental groups.

The Milton Park Citizens coalition is one group opposing the proposed expansion claiming the mountain is an important ecological and historical area.

"Montréal has the lowest percentage of greenspace of any city in North America," said Mike Sportsa, of the Citizens coalition.

"McGill should expand elsewhere."

Karla MacDonald, Students' Society VP external disagreed with the group's interpretation arguing that the expansion will not

harm the mountain's greenspace.

"The mountain is valuable, but in terms of valuable greenspace, the proposed site is not," said MacDonald.

Les Amis de la Montagne has conditionally opposed the expansion. They would agree to publicly support the expansion if the city of Montréal agrees to tear down the

Pins-Parc interchange.

"We disapprove of the vague plans (for expansion) and have received no acceptable justification to the large size of the planned building," said Peter Howlett, spokesperson of Les Amis.

According to the Students' Society and Athletics Department, the current athletics facilities were outdated twenty years ago.

MacDonald says the expansion must be near the existing facilities for convenience.

The proposed new building will have a 200 metre track, tennis and squash courts, a sport's medicine clinic and rooms for classes.

McGill promises to offer memberships to the general public. The public will have access to the full facilities but only after hours.

MacDonald said the new facili-

ties will attract tourist dollars by hosting national and international athletic competitions.

"The Students' Society wants to go build their own amusement area," said Sportsa.

"Of course, they're not going to call it that."

Sportsa stressed that it is not too late to stop the construction even though phase one, renovations of the pool, has been started. The project has been approved by several municipal and provincial boards but the bureaucracy is far from over.

For more info contact the Milton Park Citizens' Group at 844-6029. QPIRG is meeting tonight, at 18h00, Eaton Bldg, to decide whether to support or oppose the expansion.



Gym under construction.



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it's never too late to join the Daily
 But it is too late to retroactively split infinitives.

The McGill Political Science Students' Association presents

POLISPEAK '92

Tuesday, Feb. 11

Wednesday, Feb. 12

Thursday, Feb. 13

Time: 13:00

Time: 13:30

Time: 12:00

Speaker:
Jocelyne Côté-O'Hara
 Stauter Telecom Policy
 Chairman and Executive Officer
 Past Senior Officer for Prime
 Minister Mulroney's Office

Speaker:
Lic. Ma. Emilia Farías
 (+ panel)
 Consul General of Mexico

Speaker:
William Cosgrove
 Quebec Liberal Party
 Vice-President of MONENCO
 CONSULTANTS LIMITED
 Theme: "One Quebec's
 Vision of Canada"
 A speech on why young
 Quebecers should stay in
 Quebec and why they should
 participate in politics.

Theme: **Women in the
 Public Sector**
 A speech on the barriers to
 women in the public sector.

Theme:
**The Mexico-USA-Canada
 Free Trade Agreement**

Time: 20:00
Party at Pool Publ
 (International)

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Time: 15:30

Speaker:
**The Honourable
 Jean Charest**
 Minister of the Environment
 Topic:
"Unity and Prosperity"
 A speech on the Constitutional
 proposals and the importance
 of the environment in Canada's
 future.

Quebec Public Interest Research Group

McGill inc.

Statement of Revenue and Expenses and Surplus
 Year ended August 31, 1991

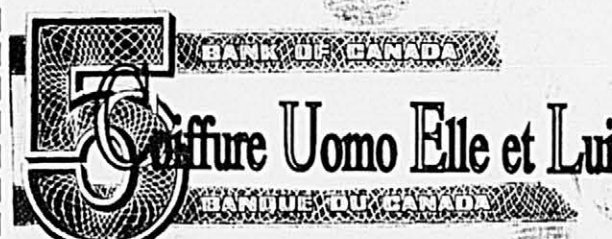
	1991	1990
Revenue		
Students' Fees	\$ 113 580	\$ 112 545
Grants	6 379	2 703
Interest	1 701	1 593
Waste Management	1 296	5 902
Other Income	—	98
	<u>\$ 122 956</u>	<u>\$ 122 841</u>
Expenses		
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 111 046	\$ 61 093
Project Costs	14 586	20 355
Office & General	7 142	9 560
Bookkeeping & Audit fees	4 850	5 030
Retreats & Meetings	4 817	3 782
Telephone	4 078	3 212
Depreciation	3 251	3 251
Discretionary	2 300	2 554
Publicity	1 313	8 259
Professional fees	823	3 926
Insurance	657	657
Interest & Bank charges	468	227
Membership fees & Subscriptions	185	202
Research	—	1 467
Miscellaneous	1 696	937
	<u>157 212</u>	<u>124 512</u>
EXCESS OF EXPENSES OVER REVENUE	(34 256)	(1 671)
Surplus, beginning of year	52 149	53 820
SURPLUS, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 17 893</u>	<u>\$ 52 149</u>

Balance Sheet
 as at August 31, 1991

CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	16 932	34 586
Due to McGill University	3 163	17 232
Accounts Receivable	4 027	2 181
Prepaid Expenses	401	402
	<u>24 523</u>	<u>54 401</u>
FIXED ASSETS	<u>4 758</u>	<u>8 009</u>
	<u>29 281</u>	<u>62 410</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable & accrued liabilities	11 388	10 261
SURPLUS	<u>17 893</u>	<u>52 149</u>
	<u>29 281</u>	<u>62 410</u>

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EVENTS

Monday, February 10

McGill Centre for Research and Teaching on Women presents Micheline de Seve, Poli Sci Dept. UQAM, "Passages from East to West: A Feminist Approach to Refugee Experience". 15h30, Birks Building, 3520 University, room 111.

The Concordia Women's Centre presents "Out of Line: Considering Narrative", part of the "How do I Look?" Film and Video Series. 16h30-19h, Loyola campus—Senate Chambers, 7141 Sherbrooke W.

The Latin America Awareness Group will be meeting today at 18h in 555 Sherbrooke St. W., in room 1180. There will also be a presentation on Belize. All our welcome.

The Cyclical Review Committee of Libraries is making a final call for comments from interested groups or individuals. Call Prof. Collier, Dept. of Pharmacology, no later than February 28 if you wish to address comments to the Committee. Copies of the Self-Study Report may be consulted at the following libraries: McLennan/Redpath Reserves, Health Sciences, Law and Physical Sciences and Engineering. Info: 398-4677.

Board Meeting.

You know
 who you
 are.

Tuesday,
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CORRECTION

Due to an editing error, the photo printed with the story "Deadly Currents" in last week's culture issue was inappropriate because it contradicts the content of the article. Furthermore, the director's name was misspelled. It is correctly spelled Jacobovici.

Québec isn't the only Nation trapped in Canada

by Ita Kendall

The federal government will abandon native self-government if Québec is brought into a new constitutional accord, Cree Chief Billy Diamond warned a native panel on the constitution last week.

Diamond was among 15 individuals and groups making submissions at the First Nation Circle on the Constitution's Montréal hearings. The Circle is conducting hearings in native communities and cities across the country.

"The trade-off of making Québec happy, in exchange for dropping Native self-government issues, is not a hypothetical one and our guard must not be let down," Diamond said. "The right to self-determination is a sacred one which is being glossed over by the process we now see in this province."

Diamond also urged the Assembly of First Nations panel to fight for a place at the heart of the constitutional negotiations.

"We must be dealing with the principal actors at all times, ensuring that we are part of the negotiated solution, not left to the side as an unwanted problem," he said.

However, native women's groups at the Circle were not confident their issues would be addressed



Madelaine Parent and Mary Two-Axe Early

in constitutional discussions. Michelle Rouleau, president of Québec Native Women was among several presenters who insisted Native women's concerns must be addressed right from the start.

Rouleau and a group of six women from the National Action Committee (NAC) on the Status of Women, including Mary Two-Axe Early and Madelaine Parent, reminded the panel of Native women's successful fight to eliminate section 12.1b of the Indian Act. The section deprived Native women of Indian status if they married non-Natives.

Native women want to "protect

the limited gains they have made in recent years," but do not know how their concerns will be treated if and when Natives win the fight for self-government, the women said.

"It was not until the introduction of the Charter of Rights and

quest for autonomy," Rouleau said.

The commissioners also heard from several non-native groups, including the Regroupement Pour la Solidarité avec les Autochtones, the Ligue des Droits de Libertés, and Coalition '92.

Freedoms in 1985 that the Indian Act was finally amended," said Parent, "and native women's long struggle against both the Canadian government and the aboriginal leadership ended."

Rouleau's submission also pointed the finger at native men.

"The chiefs refuse to recognize the Canadian Human Rights Charter and they demand (women's) unconditional support in their

Steven Augustine, a commissioner on the Circle from New Brunswick, said the hearings went to urban centres such as Montreal to reach urban natives. But he said he was impressed by the non-native presentations.

"It's not our focus, but it is nice to see the support coming from these groups," he said.

The Constitutional Circle heard presentations by native groups from Kahnawake, Kanesatake and from Montréal Native groups.

The commissioners also heard from Canadian Human Rights Commissioner Max Yalden, from the Equality party, and The Anglican Diocese of Montreal.

But perhaps it was Diamond who left the greatest impression when he said that, "When we said 'Québec' to the first Europeans, we meant come ashore and rest for awhile, we did not mean stay."

Tully reassures undergrads

Tully and Taylor announced their move three weeks ago. They will become members of the philosophy department this September.

The undergraduates were concerned that the professors' move might adversely affect the political theory program at McGill.

Tully said the students had little reason to worry. He said that he and Taylor had put forward a proposal that would maintain the quality of the current program.

Members of the Political Science department will discuss the plan Wednesday in a certification meeting. It will be finalised in a subsequent department meeting.

Tully said he did not expect much opposition to the plan. "As far as I know, everyone is in favor of this," he said. "If everything goes as everyone says its going there will be no problem."

According to the arrangement, Taylor and Tully would continue to teach the core theory courses, unless others in the Political Science department wanted to. The courses would be listed as philosophy courses but students would be able to get political science credits.

Reading courses with Taylor and Tully could continue to be considered as political science courses.

The students are writing an open letter to the Political Science department giving their support to Taylor and Tully's proposal. Tully said students' opinion would be important in any decision that was made.

Tully said that he and Taylor view political theory as an interdisciplinary field, and that "people who are more department-o-centric had objections (to this view)."

-Fiona McCaw

STUDSOC. BRIEFS

50 bucks for the second millenium

A Students' Society committee proposed levying \$50 per year from every student at Council last Thursday. The money would add to McGill's huge Twenty-first Century fund, which aims to raise \$200 million by the year 2000.

The proposed fee would start in September and last for nine years. Students would pay every year they are Students' Society members. The plan would include some sort of opt-out procedure.

"Think of how much more willing they (private individuals) would be to give, if we told them students gave just as much," said the director of the fund, who spoke at the meeting.

VP University Affairs Rosalind Ward-Smith said all faculty student associations supported the plan, except for three, which had not decided yet. But Engineering rep Matt Mather challenged Ward-Smith's assertion that the Engineering society had supported the fund. He said the Engineering council had not even discussed the matter.

"I question the validity of the other (faculty student associations that approved the fund)," said Mather.

Ward-Smith said Engineering President Gino Brancatelli had approved the idea verbally.

Arts rep Chantal Thomas said "While the Arts and Science society wholeheartedly supported raising funds for McGill, it had serious reservations about the fee."

Ward-Smith then said associations were not committed to the fund in any way, regardless of what she had told council only minutes earlier.

Council will vote next Thursday on sending the \$50 fee to referendum.

Scrap Redmen logo and name, says council

Clubs rep Julie Dzerowicz introduced a motion to support changing the Redmen logo and name. Ned Blackhawk, a member of the Native Awareness Coalition spoke in favour of the resolution.

"We feel the name and logo are offensive," he said. "McGill should embrace a stance of listening to minorities," said Blackhawk. He said the historical meaning of the name (the team wears red jerseys) was not important, only the present connotations.

Senate/Board rep Alexandra Clark then introduced an amendment to apply any new names to both men's

and women's teams. She said the present names implied the men were the Redmen, while the women (the Martlets) were "just birds." The amendment passed.

The motion is only a recommendation to McGill's athletics board.

Poll results back

VP University Affairs Rosalind Ward-Smith announced the results of several polls taken recently. Students were in favour of changing McGill degree names to gender-neutral ones, 151 for, 92 against.

Respondents also favoured changing the Redmen logo, 156 to 56; they favoured changing the Redmen name 118 to 99.

Scott's needs more cold cash

The mighty Scott's Food Services empire claimed it will sell only \$2.8 million of food at McGill this year, VP Finance Lev Bukhman told council.

The figure is down \$1 million from Scott's 1990 original sales projections.

Scott's has asked Students' Society for help in making ever-larger profits. This year, Scott's will pay Students' Society 12.5 per cent of gross sales or \$440 000, whichever is larger. The \$440 000 figure is called the 'base minimum,' and Scott's wants to reduce or eliminate it.

But Bukhman indicated this number was not negotiable. "Decreasing the base minimum would tamper with the future finances of the Students' Society."

Scott's is likely to try to increase volume of sales rather than raising prices immediately, said Bukhman.

In an effort to placate the food mogul, Students' Society suggests "replacing the Manchu Wok operation with a different food service concept." The food at Manchu Wok late in the day was "rather disagreeable" anyway, Bukhman added.

Scott's demanded their terms be met or they would leave McGill.

"If we're not willing to decrease the base minimum, Scott's said they're happy to have us look for another contract," said Bukhman.

Try and feel sorry for Scott's next time you pay eight bucks for an unsatisfying and otherwise crappy lunch.

—Michael Rottmayer

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THE MCGILL DAILY

COMMENT

Take Gopnick ... please

I have never met the man myself, but many people acquainted with Dean of Students Irwin Gopnick have suggested he would have been a good contender for a job as a 18th-century despot.

Gopnick presides over McGill's \$6 million budget for student services, and is the man solely responsible for McGill's latest student fee idea. If Gopnick has his way students will have to pay an additional \$15 a year to keep the employment centre at McGill open, starting next September.

McGill students will then have the distinction of financing Canada's first privatized employment centre.

The federal government recently decided to close a number of job centres on other Canadian campuses, but at universities like Queen's the administration is picking up the tab.

Gopnick, whose office administers the Powell Student Services building which houses the job centre, refused to entertain such an idea. He also refused a number of other ideas students suggested — holding a referendum on the new fee, charging businesses a fee when they advertise jobs at the centre, surveying students to find out which services they want from the centre — if any.

And even though students will fully fund the centre, Gopnick's office will make all decisions about how to run it. Will students have any say if the centre is found to have a discriminatory hiring policy for its staff? Will students be able to do anything if the centre's staff screens out non-white applicants for certain jobs, as many employment agencies do? No.

The issue here is not only Gopnick's autocratic personality. The issue is that he wields a level of power which is unprecedented even at McGill, a university not known for the accountability of its administrators to outside scrutiny.

Unlike other deans, Gopnick has nearly absolute power over the financial affairs of a major department of the university. Imagine the absurdity of, say, the dean of Arts trying to privatize the Economics department and dumping all the costs of running it onto students, without even consulting them.

Gopnick has most recently succeeded even in alienating the graduate students of this university. Grads, many of you will know, are a mild lot. But Gopnick's most recent fee grab has gotten them so choked up, the grad lounges are packed with crazed PhDs crying out Gopnick's name and debating over the various historical methods used by our ancestors to set up barricades.

It's time Gopnick got a message from the university. We students don't ask for much. We certainly don't get much, in any case. And we don't want the grads lifting any heavy logs. They'll hurt themselves. So do us this favour, Davey Johnson. By the end of today, fire Gopnick.

Alex Roslin



LETTERS

BSN over-demanding

To the Daily:

The Black Students' Network's demand for an African history course and an African studies program is quite reasonable and points to an important gap in this university's curriculum. Furthermore, students should have a say in what curriculum they are offered.

What is not reasonable is the Network's insistence that the university hire only a lecturer of African descent for the purpose.

As far as we know, there is no requirement that a lecturer in Jewish Studies be Jewish or that one of European history be from Europe. Such a requirement would be discriminatory. Why does the Network feel that this hiring principle can be waived in their case?

Although we, too, would prefer that a lecturer of African Studies be of African descent, we do not feel that this can be made a requirement.

Dave Romano M.A. 1
Mihkel Tae, Arts U3

With distinction

To the Daily:

The link recently made by the *Daily* claiming what makes Québec a "distinct society" is the fact that the province used to have low tuition fees in comparison to the rest of the country is extremely odious. ("Distinct Tuition" — Comment Jan 29).

Is what makes Canada distinct from the United States the fact that Canada as a whole has comparatively lower tuition fees than its southern counterpart? To say that Québec is "distinct" on the basis of its tuition fees is to also say that Québeckers are similarly distinct from the rest of Canadians because they eat and enjoy poutine.

When the Québec government talks of a "distinct society," it is in a higher socio-political context. Tuition fees will not be coming up on the Canadian

Constitutional agenda in the near future.

In McGill's case, the need to increase fees two years ago from a 20-year freeze of \$800 a year to its present \$1700 a year has to do with years of relative underfunding McGill received from the Québec government. McGill was thus left with a record \$80 million accumulated deficit. So while indeed McGill had low tuition fees, it also accumulated the highest university debt in the country.

It is far more important for students to recognize the need to fund their own education and for the government to keep university education accessible with a simultaneous increase in the availability of loans and bursaries. It is also important for McGill not to keep tuition fees low at the expense of providing quality education to its students.

Rich Latour, Arts U2

Crypto-conspiracy theories

To the Daily:

The *Daily* has been editorializing for some time about the need for a Black Studies program at McGill, a program which can only be properly taught by a black professor. The rationale behind this perceived need for the colour coordination of subject matter and instructor has not been explained in detail, but I'll just bet it has to do with a belief that black people must possess a peculiarly "black" sensibility or set of values. This is a racist assumption. It is in fact a perfect formulation of racism's essential doctrine: race determines culture.

Aside from being plainly racist, the idea of a colour-coded Academy creates a lot of interesting problems. For example, if we assume that racial identity confers some sort of ineffable quality (call it authenticity) that would prevent a person of pallor from teaching Black history properly, then can we consider Black history to be teachable to non-blacks? Presumably the white students

of black professors would also be unsuited to teach Black history, since racial authenticity, unlike knowledge, cannot be acquired by study. Since there would be no careers open to non-black students studying Black topics in the colour-coded Academy, there would be very few non-black students in Black subjects, and virtually none past the undergraduate level. Is the *Daily* concealing a crypto-segregationist agenda?

There are of course a lot of other problems where this one came from. Once the segregating principle of colour coordination is set in motion, there is no theoretical limit to its application. Two thousand years of Western patriarchal hegemony would once again become career asset rather than an ancestral taint for the white male academics in the newly consolidated multi-disciplinary White Guy Studies Department... oh forget it, it's just too stupid to talk about.

C. Doerksen, Visiting Student,

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Finding a home from the pavement up

The welfare state is well-known for its low opinion of the people for whom it provides services. Homeless people have often been patronized or treated as passive victims by social workers.

A recent conference in Montréal explored ways of going beyond these stereotypes to help homeless people solve their problems most effectively: in their own way. The conference was notable because not only Canadian and European social workers, but also homeless people took part.

by Jonathan Desbarats



Looking down Main Street at the Street City Trust Co.

City Street is a form of new housing for the homeless in Toronto.

72 people without homes have taken over an abandoned Postal Depot and leased from the City of Toronto for one dollar.

PHOTO CREDIT: CITY MAGAZINE

Le Réseau D'Aide aux personnes seules et itinérantes de Montréal, one of the groups organizing the conference, is a Montréal group which promotes self-help methods.

"We try and organize homeless people to defend their rights and improve their situation by making decisions for themselves," said Jacques Meloche, a social worker for Le Réseau D'Aide.

The group defines a homeless person as someone who has no fixed address, little or no income, poor access to public services, and possibly suffers from alcoholism or drug addiction. According to their literature, homeless people are often lonely and have very little control over their lives.

"These problems can't be solved with simple housing projects which only deal with one aspect of the problem," said Meloche. He said a gradual re-insertion into society was a better way of approaching homelessness.

For Meloche, "re-insertion" means finding a job, a permanent place to stay, and improving access to services.

Le Réseau D'Aide is a federation of organizations and individuals trying to fight homelessness, including both social workers and homeless people. The group does not provide direct services for homeless people, but it gives out information on the causes of poverty, holds press conferences, and represents the homeless at political functions.

The group often applies for government funds to be used for specific projects. Unlike many other groups, decision on what the money should be used for is made jointly by homeless people and social workers.

"How much we achieve depends on how willing governments are to commit themselves to helping our cause," said Lahssen Abassi, co-ordinator of Le Réseau D'Aide.

Street City democracy

One of the groups attending was Street City, a low cost public housing residence in Toronto. The project is designed to help homeless people return to society at a pace which is comfortable to them. Residents live in groups, work together, and make decisions concerning their living conditions and future.

If someone has a problem it is discussed and voted upon by the 65 or so residents. They have agreed on a number of regulations so far, including limiting the number of pets allowed on the premises, and another gives rowdy residents a day to think over their

actions instead of evicting them immediately.

Located in an old Canada Post building in downtown Toronto, Street City offers a more homelike atmosphere than other hostels and shelters in Toronto.

"Before I became a resident at Street City I lived in hostels that were dirty and full of assholes," said Paul McIlmoyle, in his third year as a resident at Street City.

McIlmoyle works part-time in the Tuck Shop, a prospect which could eventually lead to full-time employment. According to McIlmoyle, a number of Street City staff are former residents.

Private: With bossy janitors and cockroaches

Housing projects like Street City are in high demand, and not everyone is lucky enough to get in. In Montréal, the majority of low cost housing for homeless people is privately owned, and these private residences tend to be run-down.

"Since most projects are non-profit, nobody reviews the quality of the services, and they tend to deteriorate," said NDG City opposition councillor Claudette Godley, who helped organize the Montréal conference.

New public housing projects in Montréal are outnumbered by the older private rooming houses. The older private houses are

usually despised by the people who live in them.

Luc Boucher, a homeless person who attended the conferences last week, expressed disgust at the condition of most of the older places. He said the City has failed to provide enough new, clean housing projects.

"The private hostels are dirty and crawling with cockroaches and bossy janitors," Boucher said. Boucher is a resident of Le Soleil, a newer public residence. But he is one of the lucky ones, because the waiting list for Le Soleil is huge.

The majority of the private residences are also only a temporary solution.

"You never know when they are going to be sold - you have no security of tenure," said Bouchard.

In response to this demand for better housing, Le Réseau D'Aide is working with a committee of homeless people on a new housing project.

The project will begin with emergency housing, and could become more permanent later on. But residents will not lose their room if they are forced to leave for a period of time.

"If someone breaks down and has to go to a detox center, the room will still be there when they get back," said Godley, who has been involved in organizing the new project. She defined it as a base from which to return into society at a comfortable pace.

The project will also include services to find jobs and other, more permanent, housing for homeless people.

Miles to go...

The various organizations who attended the conferences talked about their positive achievements in fighting homelessness. Pierre Vivier, director of L'association d'accueil et de réinsertion sociale from Nancy, France, talked about a new collaboration between the Nancy town council, social workers, and homeless people.

And Jacques Tremblay, Toronto employment consultant focused on his success in helping psychiatric patients start their own businesses. The jobs include courier services, painting projects, and maintenance for low income housing.

The theme of self-empowerment adopted by Le Réseau D'Aide is getting positive responses from both workers and homeless people who attended the conferences.

"I see that I'm not alone," said Boucher. "It helps me and others like me to help ourselves."

John Johnston, a social worker, also expressed support for the philosophy.

"I like the idea of getting people involved instead of telling them what to do," he said.

But Godley cautioned against too much optimism.

"I think things will work out, but I hope we haven't raised expectations too high," she said. "A lot of this work is in virgin territory."

Accreditation act re-opened

by Michael Newman

At the urging of student groups, Québec Education Minister Lucienne Robillard will consider making changes to the way student groups can be legally recognised.

The Federation Étudiante Universitaire du Québec (FEUQ), and the post-graduate federation Regroupement des Associations des Cycles Supérieurs du Québec (RASCQ) both want changes to Bill 32, the provincial accreditation act, but disagree over the nature of the changes.

At present, incorporated student groups can gain legal provincial accreditation. Accreditation assures student groups free furnished office space with appropriate free access. It also requires administrations to provide students' associations with lists of their members, and to collect and deliver their fees.

FEUQ wants to change existing laws to allow provincial student fed-

erations to become accredited.

"We asked that Bill 32 recognise national student unions, and give them rights. This will allow them to attend government bodies," said FEUQ president Nicolas Plourde.

"With FEUQ's recommendations to Bill 32, McGill wins, because FEUQ gets an office," added Students' Society VP External Karla MacDonald. McGill's Students' Society is a member of FEUQ.

RASCQ recommended the exact opposite. "We are completely and utterly against accreditation on a national level," said RASCQ leader Eugenio Bolongaro. "If national unions are accredited, the government could manipulate the student movement."

"The law should not impose unity on the student movement. Unity should emerge from the dynamic of the student movement itself," Bolongaro noted.

"Also, we don't want to be cosy with the government, as they sit across the negotiating table from

us. They would pressure and manipulate national student federations."

The other main recommendation, on which FEUQ and RASCQ agree, involves rewriting the act so each institution's undergraduates, post-graduates, and continuing education students will be able to be accredited independently of one another.

Presently, no student group can be accredited if it includes students who already belong to another accredited student group. This led to problems at Université Laval, when their undergraduate students' association was accredited and attempted to also represent post-graduates.

Laval post-graduates opposed being represented by the undergraduates, but under the existing law, they could not be independently accredited.

Another of FEUQ's recommendations involves a new committee to deal with alleged violations of Bill 32 by universities. FEUQ wants a three-person accreditation committee including a student, a university representative and one other neutral member, so student groups do not have to settle disputes in court.

"We are asking that this committee be given more power to impose sanctions on universities who do not respect the law," Plourde said.

RASCQ is also concerned about the way student groups become accredited. Bill 32 presently requires a referendum, in which 25 per cent of affected students must vote.

"Some organisation could be accredited without representing a lot of students," said Bolongaro.

Bill 32 is to be reopened during the current session of the Québec National Assembly.

PGSS BRIEFS

Grads to vote on athletics complex fee

Grad students will get a chance to vote in a referendum on whether they should continue paying \$15 a year to fund McGill's yet-to-be-started athletics complex.

Grad students voted to take the fee to a referendum at a meeting of the Post-Graduate Students' Society last week. Speakers at the meeting cited widespread dissatisfaction with the lack of student control over the multi-million-dollar project.

Since 1982 students have paid about \$3 million into a fund to build the athletics complex, but it is not expected to open before the year 2000.

Some students also expressed concerns about the accessibility of existing athletic facilities. "The place is crowded with young men on speed," one student said.

She also noted that additional session students can't use existing facilities without paying an extra charge, but must nevertheless pay the \$15 fee toward the athletics complex.

The grad council voted to form a committee which will fight the \$15 fee.

Gopnik attacks grad students

The university should conduct an external audit of the office of dean of Students Irwin Gopnik, according to a motion overwhelmingly passed at council.

The dean has "almost absolute unchecked power" over the university's \$6-million budget for student services, and has repeatedly stifled attempts by students to obtain information about the budget, said grad society VP-Finance Bob Collins.

An audit is especially needed of Gopnik's office, Collins said, because the dean projects a \$107 000 budget deficit for his office next year. The dean has proposed to make up the deficit by hiking fees for student services by 3.8 per cent. Fees for student services are currently \$80 per year for full-time students.

The call for an audit comes after the latest tremor in a long-standing rift between grads and Gopnik. Students at the council meeting were read an abusive letter recently sent by Gopnik to grad society president Michael Temelini, which provoked a mixture of giggling and concern.

Gopnik wrote the letter in response to grad complaints about his proposal to keep McGill's job centre open. Gopnik wanted students contribute a new \$15 yearly fee to fund the centre.

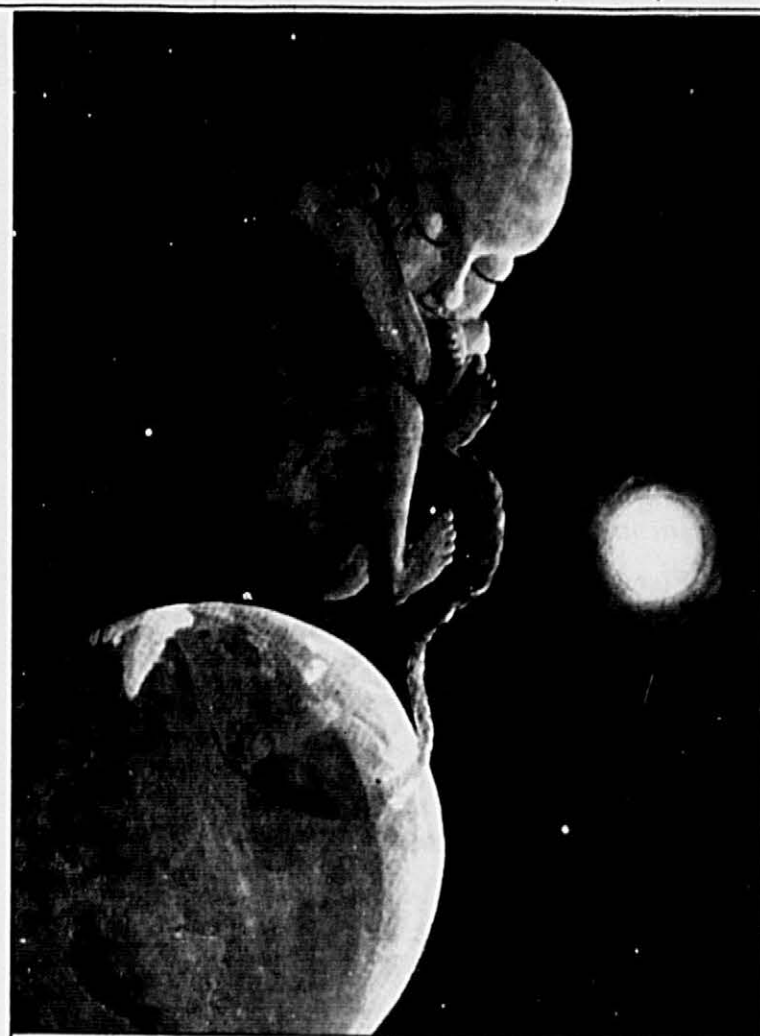
Gopnik scuttled a proposal by grad students to take the fate of the employment centre to referendum. The dean also refused to take into consideration the results of a recent survey of grads, which showed widespread opposition to the new fee.

The fee will shortly be voted on by Senate, one of the university's top administrative bodies. Grads at the council meeting expressed fears that Gopnik may be able to ram through the fee despite the objections of students.

Grads at the meeting expressed weariness over long-standing tension between themselves and Gopnik.

"Grads have dealings many other deans and many other committees, and we have never had so many problems with a dean being hostile even to simple requests for information," said grad society VP-University Affairs Tamara Myers.

— Alex Roslin



Rio gets green light

VANCOUVER (CUP) — While federal bigwigs prepare for the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro later this spring, a small group of Canadians are working to ensure the roots of the conference are not forgotten.

Project Green Light to Rio '92 is visiting Canadian universities for seven weeks to collect signatures on a giant postcard for the host city and the volunteers who made the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) possible.

UNCED is expected to produce a series of decisions to govern the environment and world wide development. These will include an "Earth Charter" that will outline principles to govern economic and environmental development.

Green Light organizer Mario Houle said the group's first priority is to publicize UNCED, which Houle believes will be the biggest event of the year.

However, Houle said giving recognition to the groups who started the process is also very important.

"The grassroots organizations were involved in the first three steps [of the organization of the conference], but they weren't invited to the last two that will get all the glory."

The post card is an eight foot mural by Patrice Boyer. Project Green Light began its cross-Canada tour in Victoria, B.C. Jan. 6. and was here at McGill last Friday, Feb. 7.

Maple sugar crop rebounds

by Yu-Yu Sung

Despite dire predictions that acid rain was destroying our maple crop, Québec's maple producers have had bumper crops over the last four years.

"In the early 80's we had a problem, but the trees are in better health today," said Christian Boulais of the Association du Québec de Lutte Contre Les Pluies Acides.

When maple syrup producers started to report an apparent decline in the health of their trees in the mid-1980s, scientists were also reporting the serious damage that acid rain had inflicted on lake and wilderness ecosystems. The popular media made the link and dutifully reported the threat to national identity.

Magazines like MacLeans and Newsweek ran articles with titles such as "Acid on the Sugar Trees." Maple sugar production was halved from 1981 to 1987, and dire predictions of the imminent death of the industry.

But in recent years, maple producers' worst fears have not materialized.

"For the last two or three years, the problem of maple decline has not been obvious; the situation is stable," said Sylvain Dufour of the Fédération de Producteurs de Sirop d'érable.

Indeed, Québec's maple producers have built up a stockpile out of the surplus production in order to

control supply and prices. They are also seeking new ways to diversify their product lines.

Although production remained comparable to 1970 levels, the decline in production was dramatic when placed next to the record harvest of 1981.

Acid rain was already receiving much media attention for its well-documented impact on lake and water ecosystems, and made an obvious scapegoat. It was easy to overlook weather conditions, both during harvest time as well as in the winter time.

"The lack of snow could have led to dryness, injury to root systems, and subsequent maple decline," said Guy Boudreau, a scientist with the Québec Ministry of Agriculture. He added that acid rain probably did contribute, as one of many factors, to some weakening of the health of the maples.

Research into the effects of ozone pollution and insect populations has become a more immediate concern for maple producers. But scientists note that the problem of acid rain has not gone away.

"There is a problem," said William Hendershot, professor of Soil Resources at Macdonald College. Scientists can quantify the effects of acid rain as it takes nutrients out of the soil. But they must rely on statistical models to draw conclusions about the effect of acid rain on forest decline.

"You can't prove it," said Hendershot. "It's like smoking being linked to cancer."

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Ads may be placed through the Daily business office, Room B-17, Union Building, 9h00-14h00. Deadline is 14h00, two working days prior to publication.

McGill Students (with valid ID): \$3.50 per day, 3 or more consecutive days, \$2.50 per day. McGill Employees (with staff card) \$4.50 per day, 3 or more consecutive days, \$3.50 per day. All others: \$5.00 per day, or \$4.00 per day for 3 or more consecutive days. (Prices do not include applicable GST or PST). For more information, please visit our office in person - WE CANNOT TAKE CLASSIFIED ADS OVER THE PHONE. The Daily assumes no financial responsibility for errors, or damage due to errors. Ad will re-appear free of charge upon request if information is incorrect due to our error. The Daily reserves the right not to print any classified ad.

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All regular members of the Post Graduate Students' Society are eligible for nomination. Elections, if any, will be held on March 17-20. Nomination forms and instructions for the candidates can be obtained at Thomson House (front desk), 3650 McTavish, and must be returned to the Chief Returning Officer (PGSS office, Thomson House, 3rd floor) by February 25.

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